



ALL 2012-2013 Students

should choose at least one book from the
2012 book choices

After reading the book, you ***must*** complete one
project (see 2012 Project Choices).

During the first week of school, students will
turn in completed projects to their English/
Journalism teacher; **these projects will count
as a significant grade for English class.**

Need another incentive?

**Prizes will be given for the top projects
in each grade.**

SUMMER READING RUBRIC

Understanding of the book	4 points The project reflects thorough understanding of complex ideas and concepts in the book.	3 points The project reflects understanding of the book beyond just the recall of facts.	2 points The project reflects a basic understanding of the book.	1 point The project reflects limited understanding of the book; there is little evidence that the book was even read.
Mechanics of Writing	The project reflects appropriate spelling, grammar, punctuation, and sentence formation.	The project has few spelling, grammar, punctuation, or sentence formation errors. The errors do not interfere with the reading of the paper.	The project has many spelling, grammar, punctuation, or sen- tence formation errors. The errors interfere with the reading of the paper.	The project reflects minimal control of spelling, grammar, punctuation, and/or sentence formation. The paper is difficult to read.
Writing/Art/Video Project	The project reflects careful attention to de- tail and effort. Materials and time were used effectively, and guide- lines were completely followed.	The project reflects some attention to detail and effort. Materials and time were used, and guidelines were fol- lowed.	The project reflects minimal attention to detail and effort. Ma- terials and time were not used effectively, and guidelines were not followed.	The project reflects poor effort, and the guidelines were not followed.

Remember ***all*** projects include a writing component. It is recommended that you read over the Project Choices before you begin reading your book. Read the guidelines for each project carefully and follow them for full credit. Each project requires you to include at least 5 quotations from the book, so make note of significant quotations as you read.

2012 Project Choices

1. Book Review

Look at newspapers for examples, and write a review of your book. Include at least 5 paragraphs that explain the novel's strengths regarding plot, theme, characters, setting, etc. Be sure to explain what type of reader will enjoy this book and why. In your paper include at least 5 significant quotations from the book and explain how these affected your review.

2. Character Letters

Examine two characters from the book, and write four letters total (at least 1 letter per character) from the viewpoint of the characters. Letters should be at least one page and should be in a letter format including greeting, body and salutation. You are encouraged to include photos, drawings or other accompanying materials. In a paragraph include an explanation as to why you chose the characters. Include at least 5 quotations from the book, and show how these influenced your letters.

3. Original Play

Continue the story line or show interactions between characters outside the story. Write a script including dialogue, stage directions, scenery, and any necessary commentary in proper format. In a paragraph explain why you have chosen to write the scene, include at least 5 quotations from the book, and show how these influenced your play/scene.

4. Alternative Ending

How many times have you wished you could rewrite the ending of a book? Here's your chance to tie up all of the loose ends and resolve the story in a way you like. Write at least five paragraphs to retell the ending and include at least 5 specific references to quotations that influenced your new ending.

5. Quilt Square, Batik, Needlework

As you read the book, think about the important images that are revealed. Design a piece that incorporates these images and reflects the story. The piece should measure at least 9 x 9 inches. In a paragraph explain why you chose the image and include at least 5 quotations that influenced the "picture".

6. Painting

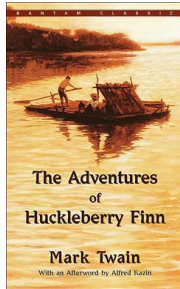
As you read a book, you may form pictures in your mind of the setting, a character, or perhaps a recurring symbol. Paint this representation; the work should measure at least 8 x 11 inches. In a paragraph explain the reasons for your choice and include 5 quotations that give insight into the character's personality or description of scenes, etc.

7. Group Project - Bringing Books to Life

As you read the book, make note of passages that can be dramatized in order to bring the story to life for others. The total performance should be at least 5 minutes and may be filmed or performed live. Each group member must choose at least 5 quotations from the book and in a paragraph show how these influenced the project. Make sure each group member can document their work; each member must submit an original paragraph.

8. Group Project - Video Book Review

As a book publicist, design and produce a commercial to "sell" the book and hook readers. The video should be at least 5 minutes long. Review the book, explaining the novel's strengths as well as your own recommendations. Be sure to explain what type of reader will enjoy this book and why. Each group member must choose at least 5 quotations from the book and in a paragraph explain their significance and how these passages affected the review. Make sure each group member can document their work; each member must submit an original paragraph.



***Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain**

From the Publisher: A complex masterpiece that has spawned volumes of scholarly exegesis (explanation or critical interpretation of a text) and interpretative theories, it is, at heart, a compelling adventure story. Huck, in flight from his murderous father, and Nigger Jim, in flight from slavery, pilot their raft thrillingly through treacherous waters, surviving a crash with a steamboat, betrayal by rogues and the final threat from the bourgeoisie. Informing all this is the presence of the River, described in palpable detail by Mark Twain, the former steamboat pilot, who transforms it into a richly metaphoric entity. Twain's other great innovation was the language of the book itself, which is expressive in a completely original way.

***All These Things I've Done* by Gabrielle Zevin**

From the Publisher: In 2083, chocolate and coffee are illegal, paper is hard to find, water is carefully rationed, and New York City is rife with crime and poverty. And yet, for Anya Balanchine, the sixteen-year-old daughter of the city's most notorious (and dead) crime boss, life is fairly routine. It consists of going to school, taking care of her siblings and her dying grandmother, trying to avoid falling in love with the new assistant D.A.'s son, and avoiding her loser ex-boyfriend. That is until her ex is accidentally poisoned by the chocolate her family manufactures and the police think she's to blame. Suddenly, Anya finds herself thrust unwillingly into the spotlight--at school, in the news, and most importantly, within her mafia family.



***As I Lay Dying* by William Faulkner**

From the Publisher: "I set out deliberately to write a tour-de-force. Before I ever put pen to paper and set down the first word I knew what the last word would be and almost where the last period would fall." -William Faulkner
This harrowing account of the Bundren family's odyssey across the Mississippi countryside to bury Addie, their wife and mother. Narrated in turn by each of the family members-including Addie herself-as well as others, the novel ranges in mood from dark comedy to the deepest pathos.

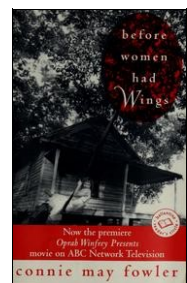
***Ashes* by Ilsa Bick**



From the Publisher: It could happen tomorrow . . . An electromagnetic pulse flashes across the sky, destroying every electronic device, wiping out every computerized system, and killing billions. Alex hiked into the woods to say good-bye to her dead parents and her personal demons. Now desperate to find out what happened after the pulse crushes her to the ground, Alex meets up with Tom-a young soldier-and Ellie, a girl whose grandfather was killed by the EMP. For this improvised family and the others who are spared, it's now a question of who can be trusted and who is no longer human. Author Ilsa J. Bick crafts a terrifying and thrilling novel about a world that could be ours at any moment, where those left standing must learn what it means not just to survive, but to live amidst the devastation.

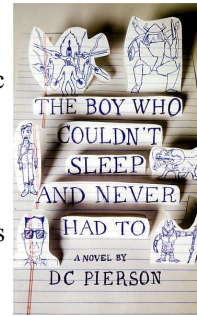
***Before Women Had Wings* by Connie May Fowler**

From the Publisher: My name is Avocet Abigail Jackson. But because Mama couldn't find anyone who thought Avocet was a fine name for a child, she called me Bird. Which is okay by me. She named both her children after birds, her logic being that if we were named for something with wings then maybe we'd be able to fly above it all. Star-struck by a dime-store picture of Jesus, Bird fancies herself "His girlfriend" and embarks upon a spiritual quest for salvation, even as the chaos of her home life plunges her into a stony silence. In stark and honest language, she tells the tragic life of her father, a sweet-talking wanna-be country music star, tracks her older sister's perilous journey into womanhood, and witnesses her mother make a courageous and ultimately devastating decision. Yet most profound is Bird's own story--her struggle to sift through the ashes of her parent's lives, her meeting with Miss Zora, a healer whose prayers over the bones of winged creatures are meant to guide their souls to heaven, and her will to make sense of a world where fear is more plentiful than hope, retribution more valued than love.

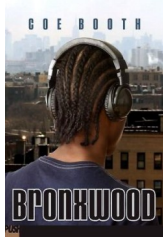


The Boy Who Couldn't Sleep and Never Had To: A Novel by D.C. Pierson

From the Publisher: Like any right-thinking teenager who has grown up on Star Wars and comic books, Darren knows that if there's anything unique about you, men in suits and dark glasses will show up and take you away. This knowledge takes on a new immediacy when Darren discovers that his new best bud, Eric, has a strange, well, superpower: he literally never sleeps and never has to! The good news about this is that it gives Eric lots of time to think about TimeBlaze, the multiplatform sci-fi epic he and Darren are creating. The bad news is that what they imagine starts to become real, including, yes, a man in a suit and dark glasses! In his first novel Pierson, a member of the sketch comedy group Derrick Comedy, has written a witty coming-of-age novel with some engaging twists (anything is possible, remember). And in Darren and Eric, he has created two engaging and memorable co-conspirators and co-protagonists.



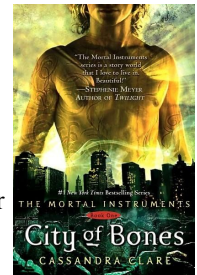
***Bronxwood* by Coe Booth**



From the Publisher: The acclaimed author of *Tyrell* and *Kendra* returns to *Push* to continue Tyrell's astonishing story. Tyrell's father is just out of jail, and Tyrell doesn't know how to deal with that. It's bad enough that his brother Troy is in foster care and that his mother is no help whatsoever. Now there's another thing up in his face, just when he's trying to settle down. Tyrell's father has plans of his own and doesn't seem to care whether or not Tyrell wants to go along with them. Tyrell can see the crash that's coming -- with his dad, with the rest of his family, with the girls he's seeing - - but he's not sure he can stop it. Or if he even wants to.

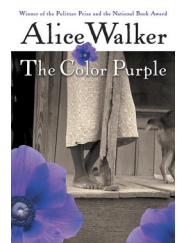
***City of Bones* by Cassandra Clare**

From the Publisher: When fifteen-year-old Clary Fray heads out to the Pandemonium Club in New York City, she hardly expects to witness a murder, much less a murder committed by three teenagers covered with strange tattoos and brandishing bizarre weapons. Then the body disappears into thin air. It's hard to call the police when the murderers are invisible to everyone else and when there is nothing not even a smear of blood to show that a boy has died. Or was he a boy? This is Clary's first meeting with the Shadowhunters, warriors dedicated to ridding the earth of demons. It's also her first encounter with Jace, a Shadowhunter who looks a little like an angel and acts a lot like a jerk. Within twenty-four hours Clary is pulled into Jace's world with a vengeance, when her mother disappears and Clary herself is attacked by a demon. But why would demons be interested in ordinary mundanes like Clary and her mother? And how did Clary suddenly get the Sight? The Shadowhunters would like to know. . . .



***The Color Purple* by Alice Walker**

From the Publisher: The Pulitzer Prize-winning novel that tells the story of two African-American sisters: Nettie, a missionary in Africa, and Celie, a child-wife living in the south, in the medium of their letters to each other and in Celie's case, the desperate letters she begins, "Dear God."



***Divergent* by Veronica Roth**

From the Publisher: In Beatrice Prior's dystopian Chicago, society is divided into five factions, each dedicated to the cultivation of a particular virtue-Candor (the honest), Abnegation (the selfless), Dauntless (the brave), Amity (the peaceful), and Erudite (the intelligent). On an appointed day of every year, all sixteen-year-olds must select the faction to which they will devote the rest of their lives. For Beatrice, the decision is between staying with her family and being who she really is - she can't have both. So she makes a choice that surprises everyone, including herself. During the highly competitive initiation that follows, Beatrice renames herself Tris and struggles to determine who her friends really are - and where, exactly, a romance with a sometimes fascinating, sometimes infuriating boy fits into the life she's chosen. But Tris also has a secret, one she's kept hidden from everyone because she's been warned it can mean death. And as she discovers a growing conflict that threatens to unravel her seemingly perfect society, she also learns that her secret might help her save those she loves... or it might destroy her.



***Flowers for Algernon* by Daniel Keys**

From the Publisher: This is the classic tale of Charlie Gordon, born with an unusually low IQ, who must face his gradual return to his former state when the astounding results of an experimental surgery that increased his intelligence prove to be only temporary.

***For Whom the Bell Tolls* by Ernest Hemingway**

From the Publisher: In 1937 Ernest Hemingway traveled to Spain to cover the civil war there for the North American Newspaper Alliance. Three years later he completed the greatest novel to emerge from "the good fight," *For Whom the Bell Tolls*. The story of Robert Jordan, a young American in the International Brigades attached to an antifascist guerilla unit in the mountains of Spain, it tells of loyalty and courage, love and defeat, and the tragic death of an ideal. In his portrayal of Jordan's love for the beautiful Maria and his superb account of El Sordo's last stand, in his brilliant travesty of La Pasionaria and his unwillingness to believe in blind faith, Hemingway surpasses his achievement in *The Sun Also Rises* and *A Farewell to Arms* to create a work at once rare and beautiful, strong and brutal, compassionate, moving, and wise.

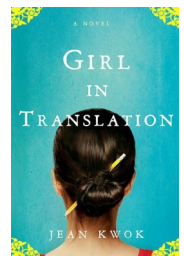
***Girl of Fire and Thorns* by Rae Carson**

From the Publisher: Once a century, one person is chosen for greatness. Elisa is the chosen one. But she is also the younger of two princesses. The one who has never done anything remarkable, and can't see how she ever will. Now, on her sixteenth birthday, she has become the secret wife of a handsome and worldly king—a king whose country is in turmoil. A king who needs her to be the chosen one, not a failure of a princess. And he's not the only one who seeks her. Savage enemies, seething with dark magic, are hunting her. A daring, determined revolutionary thinks she could be his people's savior, and he looks at her in a way that no man has ever looked at her before. Soon it is not just her life, but her very heart that is at stake. Elisa could be everything to those who need her most. If the prophecy is fulfilled. If she finds the power deep within herself. If she doesn't die young. Most of the chosen do.



***Girl in Translation* by Jean Kwok**

From the Publisher: Introducing a fresh, exciting Chinese-American voice, an inspiring debut about an immigrant girl forced to choose between two worlds and two futures. When Kimberly Chang and her mother emigrate from Hong Kong to Brooklyn squalor, she quickly begins a secret double life: exceptional schoolgirl during the day, Chinatown sweatshop worker in the evenings. Disguising the more difficult truths of her life—like the staggering degree of her poverty, the weight of her family's future resting on her shoulders, or her secret love for a factory boy who shares none of her talent or ambition—Kimberly learns to constantly translate not just her language but herself back and forth between the worlds she straddles. Through Kimberly's story, author Jean Kwok, who also emigrated from Hong Kong as a young girl, brings to the page the lives of countless immigrants who are caught between the pressure to succeed in America, their duty to their family, and their own personal desires, exposing a world that we rarely hear about.

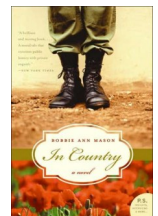


***Go Tell It on the Mountain* by James Baldwin**

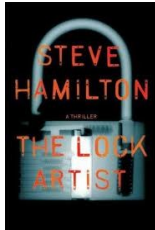
From the Publisher: James Baldwin's stunning first novel is now an American classic. With startling realism that brings Harlem and the black experience vividly to life, this is a work that touches the heart with emotion while it stimulates the mind with its narrative style, symbolism, and excoriating vision of racism in America. Moving through time from the rural South to the northern ghetto, starkly contrasting the attitudes of two generations of an embattled family, *Go Tell It On The Mountain* is an unsurpassed portrayal of human beings caught up in a dramatic struggle and of a society confronting inevitable change.

***In Country* by Bobbie Ann Mason**

From the Publisher: In the summer of 1984, the war in Vietnam came home to Sam Hughes, whose father was killed there before she was born. The soldier-boy in the picture never changed. In a way that made him dependable. But he seemed so innocent. "Astronauts have been to the moon," she blurted out to the picture. "You missed Watergate. I was in the second grade." She stared at the picture, squinting her eyes, as if she expected it to come to life. But Dwayne had died with his secrets. Emmett was walking around with his. Anyone who survived Vietnam seemed to regard it as something personal and embarrassing. Granddad had said they were embarrassed that they were still alive. "I guess you're not embarrassed," she said to the picture.



***The Lock Artist* by Steve Hamilton**



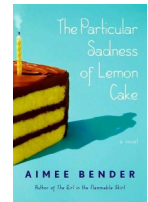
From the Publisher: "I was the Miracle Boy, once upon a time. Later on, the Milford Mute. The Golden Boy. The Young Ghost. The Kid. The Boxman. The Lock Artist. That was all me. But you can call me Mike." Marked by tragedy, traumatized at the age of eight, Michael, now eighteen, is no ordinary young man. Besides not uttering a single word in ten years, he discovers the one thing he can somehow do better than anyone else. Whether it's a locked door without a key, a padlock with no combination, or even an eight-hundred pound safe ... he can open them all. It's an unforgivable talent. A talent that will make young Michael a hot commodity with the wrong people and, whether he likes it or not, push him ever close to a life of crime. Until he finally sees his chance to escape, and with one desperate gamble risks everything to come back home to the only person he ever loved, and to unlock the secret that has kept him silent for so long. Steve Hamilton steps away from his Edgar Award-winning Alex McKnight series to introduce a unique new character, unlike anyone you've ever seen in the world of crime fiction.

***On the Road* by Jack Kerouac**

From the Publisher: *On the Road* tells the story of two friends whose four cross-country road trips are a quest for meaning and true experience. Written with a mixture of sad-eyed naïveté and wild abandon, and imbued with Kerouac's love of America, his compassion for humanity, and his sense of language as jazz, *On the Road* is the quintessential American vision of freedom and hope, a book that changed American literature and changed anyone who has ever picked it up.

***The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake* by Aimee Bender**

From the Publisher: The wondrous Aimee Bender conjures the lush and moving story of a girl whose magical gift is really a devastating curse. On the eve of her ninth birthday, unassuming Rose Edelstein, a girl at the periphery of schoolyard games and her distracted parents' attention, bites into her mother's homemade lemon-chocolate cake and discovers she has a magical gift: she can taste her mother's emotions in the cake. She discovers this gift to her horror, for her mother—her cheerful, good-with-crafts, can-do mother—tastes of despair and desperation. Suddenly, and for the rest of her life, food becomes a peril and a threat to Rose. The curse her gift has bestowed is the secret knowledge all families keep hidden—her mother's life outside the home, her father's detachment, her brother's clash with the world. Yet as Rose grows up she learns to harness her gift and becomes aware that there are secrets even her taste buds cannot discern. *The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake* is a luminous tale about the enormous difficulty of loving someone fully when you know too much about them.

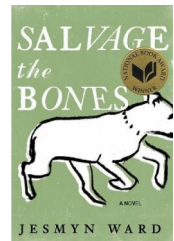


***A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* by James Joyce**

From the Publisher: *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* represents the transitional stage between the realism of Joyce's *Dubliners* and the symbolism of *Ulysses* and is essential to the understanding of the later work.

***Salvage the Bones* by Jesmyn Ward**

Winner of the 2011 National Book Award. A hurricane is building over the Gulf of Mexico, threatening the coastal town of Bois Sauvage, Mississippi, and Esch's father is growing concerned. A hard drinker, largely absent, he doesn't show concern for much else. Esch and her three brothers are stocking food, but there isn't much to save. Lately, Esch can't keep down what food she gets; she's fourteen and pregnant. Her brother Skeetah is sneaking scraps for his prized pit bull's new litter, dying one by one in the dirt. Meanwhile, brothers Randall and Junior try to stake their claim in a family long on child's play and short on parenting. As the twelve days that make up the novel's framework yield to their dramatic conclusion, this unforgettable family—motherless children sacrificing for one another as they can, protecting and nurturing where love is scarce—pulls itself up to face another day. A big-hearted novel about familial love and community against all odds, and a wrenching look at the lonesome, brutal, and restrictive realities of rural poverty, *Salvage the Bones* is muscled with poetry, revelatory, and real.



***Slaughterhouse Five* by Kurt Vonnegut**

From the Publisher: *Slaughterhouse Five* is one of the world's great anti-war books. Centering on the infamous fire-bombing of Dresden, Billy Pilgrim's odyssey through time reflects the mythic journey of our own fractured lives as we search for meaning in what we are afraid to know.